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CDA-CIA

# DECLASSIFICATION

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(with TOT SECRET attachment)

TO: The Secretary  
THROUGH: S/S  
FROM: USA - William K. Tyler  
SUBJECT: Autobahn Convoys

007 21 1963

1. At your meeting today with the President and Secretary McNamee, there will be three basic questions to cover: (1) whether Allied autobahn procedures should be harmonized; (2) whether either harmonized or national procedures should be communicated to the Soviets; and (3) when US nondismount convoys should be resumed?

2. State Department, DOD/ISA, and JC<sub>o</sub> officers jointly prepared the attached papers for use at the meeting. At Tab A is a proposed scenario of actions leading up to the sending of the next nondismount convoy. At Tab B is a proposed letter from CINCUSAREUR to his Soviet counterpart. You might also hand a copy of this letter to the Soviet Ambassador here.

3. Last year, months of effort failed to achieve agreement in the field on Allied autobahn convoy procedures. Now, however, on the basis of recommendations from the three Berlin Commandants, and with the concurrence of the Bonn Quadrupartite Group, we appear to be very close to agreement. The procedures recommended by the field are set forth in the LIVZ QM message at Tab C.

4. Opinion is divided on whether the Soviets should be informed of Allied procedures. From reports we have seen and talks with our colleagues at the working level, we find that the British favor doing so. The French will probably only agree to do so if they have assurances that we will avoid negotiations on procedures with the Soviets. The Germans will apparently support informing the Soviets, if this does not freeze our procedures, particularly after the East Germans take over the checkpoints. General Leinitzer is reluctant to inform the Soviets, but JC<sub>o</sub> and DOD will probably decide it is necessary to inform them.

5. There is virtually full agreement in the Berlin Task Force that further nondismount convoys should be sent, once the Soviets have been informed of our procedures.

6. We are

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6. We are under no illusions that bureaucratizing our procedures and communicating them to the Soviets will avoid further atomic incidents. Doing so will, however, put us in the enviable position of allied unity in future crises as well as in the basic public relations posture.

## Recommendations:

1. That you request the approval of the President to table the attached draft scenario and letter to Ambassador in the Ambassadorial Group.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

DISAPPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

2. That you request the approval of the President to review pending amendment convey after war procedures have been communicated to the Soviets.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

DISAPPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

## Attachments:

1. Tab A - Draft scenario.
2. Tab B - Draft letter, CINCPAC USA to Soviet Ambassador.
3. Tab C - USN MSG telegram 8848 9-12-63.

## Concurrences:

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

DISAPPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

STANDARD SECURITY INFORMATION FORM  
REF ID: A61114

PARTIAL TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

SCENARIO - OPERATION SHORTSTOP

C-Day                    Non-Dismount US Convoy

C Minus 2              CINCS inform CINC GSFG of allied Procedures by letter.  
                          Secretary Rusk talks to Dubrynin

C Minus 3              Inform NAC of Plan

C Minus 4              Quadripartite agreement on harmonized procedures and informing Soviets  
                          MODs instruct national authorities on convoy procedures

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October 21, 1963

### SCHEMATIC OPERATION AND SYSTEM

C-Day	Non-Discriminatory US Convoy
C Hours 2	CINCS (af, ex CINC CGFC) of allied Procedures by letter Secretary Rusy talks to subgroups
C Hours 3	Inform RIC of Plans
C Hours 4	Quadrilateral agreement on recognized procedures and Information Soviets
	More detailed national discussions on convoy procedures

RTF : JCA : 2013-03-15 : 000

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DRAFT LETTER FROM FREEMAN TO YAKUBOVSKY

Dear General Yakubovsky:

I refer to recent incidents on the autobahn in which US and UK convoys were detained by Soviet military authorities at the check-point. The discussions which took place indicated that there may have been some misunderstanding regarding US and UK convoy procedures.

In part of their rights relating to Berlin, the Allies possess unrestricted rights of access to Berlin.

The Allies have from time to time prescribed certain procedures for their own forces in order to facilitate the flow of military traffic on the autobahn. It was on the basis of these procedures that movements precisely of the type detained by the Soviet military authorities transited the autobahn without incident for many months prior to October 9, 1963.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding on the part of the Soviet military authorities, I am herewith providing you with a summary of the current instructions to the Allied autobahn convoy commanders:

TROOP CONVOY PROCEDURES

1. Convoys of 5 vehicles and over will be notified to the Soviets in advance.

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PARTIAL TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

2. Any convoy with more than 30 passengers (i.e. exclusive of drivers and assistant drivers) will be prepared to dismount, except when tarpaulins are rolled back.

3. Convoys with 30 passengers or less will not dismount, except that individual vehicles with 1G or more passengers, within the convoy will be prepared to dismount.

4. Drivers and assistant drivers will not dismount.

5. Dismounting for headcount (if requested by the Soviet checkpoint officer) will be carried out under the following conditions:

(a) Dismount will be executed on order of the Allied convoy commander.

(b) The Allied convoy commander will determine where the troops should form for headcount.

(c) In the event troops dismounted for headcount are photographed or exposed to propaganda broadcast, distribution of propaganda pamphlets, or other forms of propaganda, or are otherwise harassed, they will promptly remount.

(d) Headcount will be performed expeditiously otherwise the troops will remount.

(e) Dismounting will not be performed in inclement weather.

I take this opportunity again to assure you of my continued respect.

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2. Any convoy with more than 30 passengers (i.e. exclusive of drivers and assistant drivers) will be prepared to dismount, except when tanklines are rolled back.
3. Convoys with 30 passengers or less will not dismount, except that individual vehicles with 10 or more passengers, within the convoy, will be prepared to dismount.
4. Drivers and assistant drivers will not dismount.
5. Dismounting for headcount (if requested by the Soviet checkpoint officer) will be carried out under the following conditions:
  - (a) Dismount will be executed in order of the Allied convoy commander.
  - (b) The Allied convoy commander will determine where the troops should form for headcount.
  - (c) In the event troops dismounted for headcount are photographed, or exposed to propaganda broadcasts, distribution of propaganda pamphlets, or other forms of propaganda, or are otherwise harassed, they will promptly recount.
  - (d) Headcount will be performed expeditiously. Otherwise the troops will remount.
  - (e) Dismounting will not be performed in inclement weather.

I take this opportunity again to assure you of my continued respect.

Paul L. Freeman, Jr.  
General USA  
Commander-in-Chief

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